

A HISTORY OF 87 JOHNSTON STREET



Above: 87 Johnston Street [centre] with Hartford to the right and Inverness to the left. Courtesy Google Maps [August 2019].

Acknowledgments.

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Thank you to Ancestry.com, which is now, for me, a standard research tool.



Above & Below: 87 Johnston Street - Penandra [February 2020].



87 Johnston Street, Wagga Wagga

87 Johnston Street is the eastern half of allotment 12, section 36, in the town and parish of South Wagga Wagga.

This property features a house known as *Penandra* [or *Penandrae*].

The original grant for allotment 12, was to John Bent, on the 29th October 1856.¹

On the 15th March 1859 John Bent, of Yanco, transferred allotment 12 to Henry Baylis, for the sum of £50.²

On the 23rd December 1872, Henry Baylis, a police magistrate, of Wagga Wagga, transferred the property to George Smith, a grazier, of Kyeamba, for the sum of £125.³

In 1873 allotment 12 was a fenced building site, but by 1875 it featured a brick cottage. George Smith was both the owner and occupier of the property, for this period.⁴ The assumption is made that this is the house known as *Penandra* [87 Johnston Street]. This assumption is based on the fact that *Penandra* is set back from the road [*Inverness*, the adjoining home, is not], and *Penandra* is an older building than *Inverness*.

It is suspected that George was in financial strife by August 1877, and that he would have been selling off his assets in order to avoid insolvency. It was reported, in this month, that he had sold his house in Johnstone Street to the Presbyterian Church, who intended to use the building as a manse. The minister, at that time, was the Rev. Nairn, and it was claimed the church had paid £900.⁵ It seems the transaction was never completed. By August 1878, George's financial woes were public knowledge.⁶

In April 1878, the official assignee of Smith's insolvent estate offered for sale, by public auction, a brick house in Johnston Street, on a lot with eighty feet frontage to Johnston Street. Also on offer was the adjoining building lot, with fifty two feet

¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 1092, number 13. [also B-4105, refer book 1092, number 13]

² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 60, number 408.

³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 133, number 607.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Rate Books. 1870-1878.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th August 1877, p2.

⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 24th August 1878, p4.

frontage to Johnston Street. Both lots had a depth of one hundred and ninety feet, running north from Johnston Street.⁷

In October 1880, George Smith was insolvent, and on the 12th of that month the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney and the official assignee, Frederick Thomas Humphrey, transferred the property to Lawrence Solomon Joseph, a jeweller, of Wagga Wagga, for the sum of £740.⁸ The large increase in value of the property confirms the existence of a house on the property.

The next change in ownership took place some nineteen years later, when, on the 24th March 1899, Esher Marks [the mother in law of Lawrence Solomon Joseph], a widow, of Sydney [mortgagee], and Lawrence Solomon Joseph, a jeweller, of Sydney, transferred the property to William Seymour Eaton, a brewer, of Wagga Wagga, for £670. This was still the full area of allotment 12, being a total of two roods and sixteen perches.⁹

The house was the venue for a family wedding reception on the 25th November 1899, when Thomas Yates Smith, the eldest son of Thomas Yates Smith of Glasgow, Scotland, married Gertrude Eaton, the youngest daughter of Mr William Seymour Eaton. The couple were married in St John's Church, followed by a reception at *Penandrae*, the home of the bride's parents [87 Johnston Street].¹⁰

In September 1904, Henry Samuel Headley advertised *Penandra*, Johnston Street, to let.¹¹

Allotment 12 Split

In September 1909, allotment 12 was split into two parts. These became numbers 87 & 89 Johnston Street.

89 Johnstone Street

On the 29th September 1909, the western portion of allotment 12 was sold by William Seymour Eaton, a retired brewer, formerly of Wagga Wagga, but now of Mosman, to Mary Kerfoot, the wife of Edward Kerfoot, a merchant of Wagga Wagga, for the sum of £1,000.¹² This was the western half of allotment 12 [89 Johnstone Street], which shared a common boundary with allotment 11. The

⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 30th March 1878, p3.

⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 210, number 125.

⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 639, number 794.

¹⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 28th November 1899, p2.

¹¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 3rd September 1904, p3.

¹² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 891, number 285.

block had an area of one rood and eight perches – exactly half of the original area of allotment 12.

The subsequent history of 89 Johnstone Street will be covered in a separate article.

William Seymour Eaton died on the 17th October 1910.¹³

87 Johnstone Street

From 1899 till 1916 *Penandra* was owned by the Eaton family.

In June 1914, the proprietor of the Daily Express, Henry Dunstan, passed away. His residence was listed as *Penandra*, Johnston Street.¹⁴ It appears that *Penandra* was a boarding house from the early 1900's through to the late 1940's.

Henry Dunstan was well known as the proprietor of several district newspapers. An obituary notice provided the following details,¹⁵

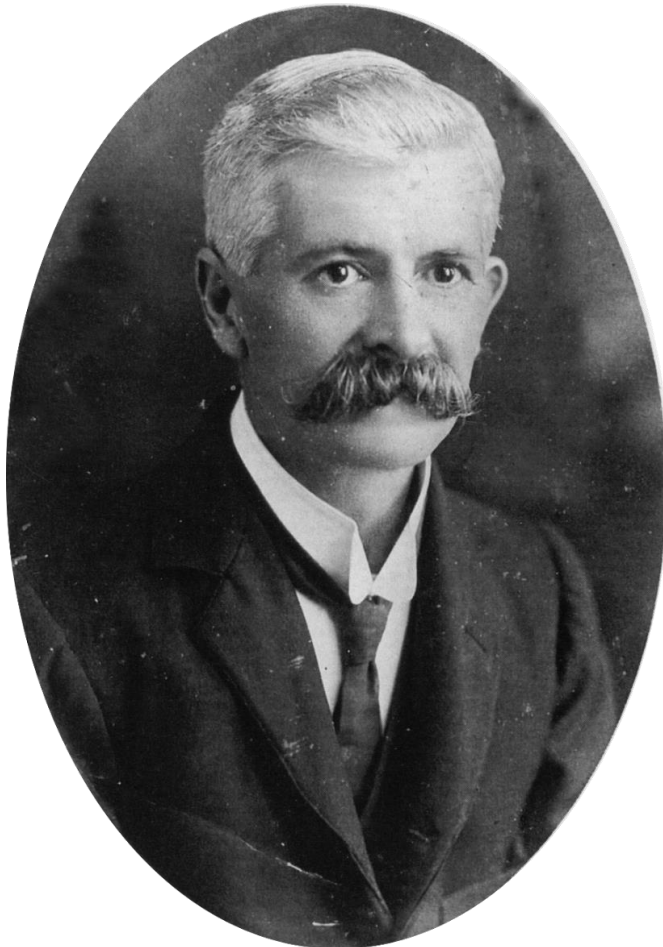
“The main portion of deceased's career was spent in Victoria. He was born of Cornish parents at Castlemaine, and at the early age of 13 he was employed in the office of his uncle, in a general store. Later he became cashier for Messrs. Ball and Welch, drapers, of Castlemaine. He commenced his journalistic career on the "Horsham Times," and became sub-editor, and for a time acting editor of that paper. On a change of proprietorship he was appointed managing editor of the "Wimmera Star," published at Horsham. Shortly after his marriage to Miss Caroline Hine, daughter of the late Mr. William Hine, of Castlemaine, Mr. Dunstan established the Rupanyup "Spectator." He subsequently became managing editor of the Charlton "Independent," and in 1890 he again made a venture on his own account, launching the Yackandandah "Times." He remained in that business for a number of years, during which time, the larger portion of his family of five sons and three daughters were born. At Yackandandah deceased took an active part in public life, and was the first secretary of the local A. and P. Society. He was also interested in mining matters, and published several pamphlets concerning the Twist Creek and other gold reefs. Mr. Dunstan came to this State in 1906, when he established the Urana "Independent." with which was associated the Clear Hills "Standard." While in Urana he passed the Local Government auditors and clerks' examination. He acted as auditor to several Riverina municipalities and shires, and later became clerk to the Urana Shire Council, the newspaper business being given over to the care of his sons. He left Urana to become first clerk to the Wollondilly Shire Council, and later to North Botany (Mascot) Municipal Council. Meantime his sons had, in extension of their Urana business, undertaken a lease of the Lockhart "Leader," and the deceased subsequently returned to Lockhart and took charge of

¹³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 18th October 1910, p2.

¹⁴ Daily Advertiser. 15th June 1914.

¹⁵ Daily Advertiser. 15th June 1914, p2.

that journal. In 1912, father and sons joined hands in the business of' the Wagga "Express."



Above: Henry Dunstan. Courtesy Valerie Dunstan.

Elizabeth Harriett Eaton, the wife of William Seymour Eaton, died on the 9th June 1915, at her home in Mosman.¹⁶

The Eaton family's connection with the property was severed on the 5th September 1916, with the conveyance of the property [# 87] from Rosalie Hutchinson, the wife of Thomas Hutchinson, a merchant, and Ada Hilliard, the wife of George Donald Hilliard, a bank manager of Petersham, to Mary Kerfoot, the wife of Edward Kerfoot of Wagga Wagga, for the sum of £825. The property had an area of one rood and eight perches and was the eastern half of portion 12 [87 Johnston Street].¹⁷

¹⁶ Daily Advertiser. 10th June 1915, p3.

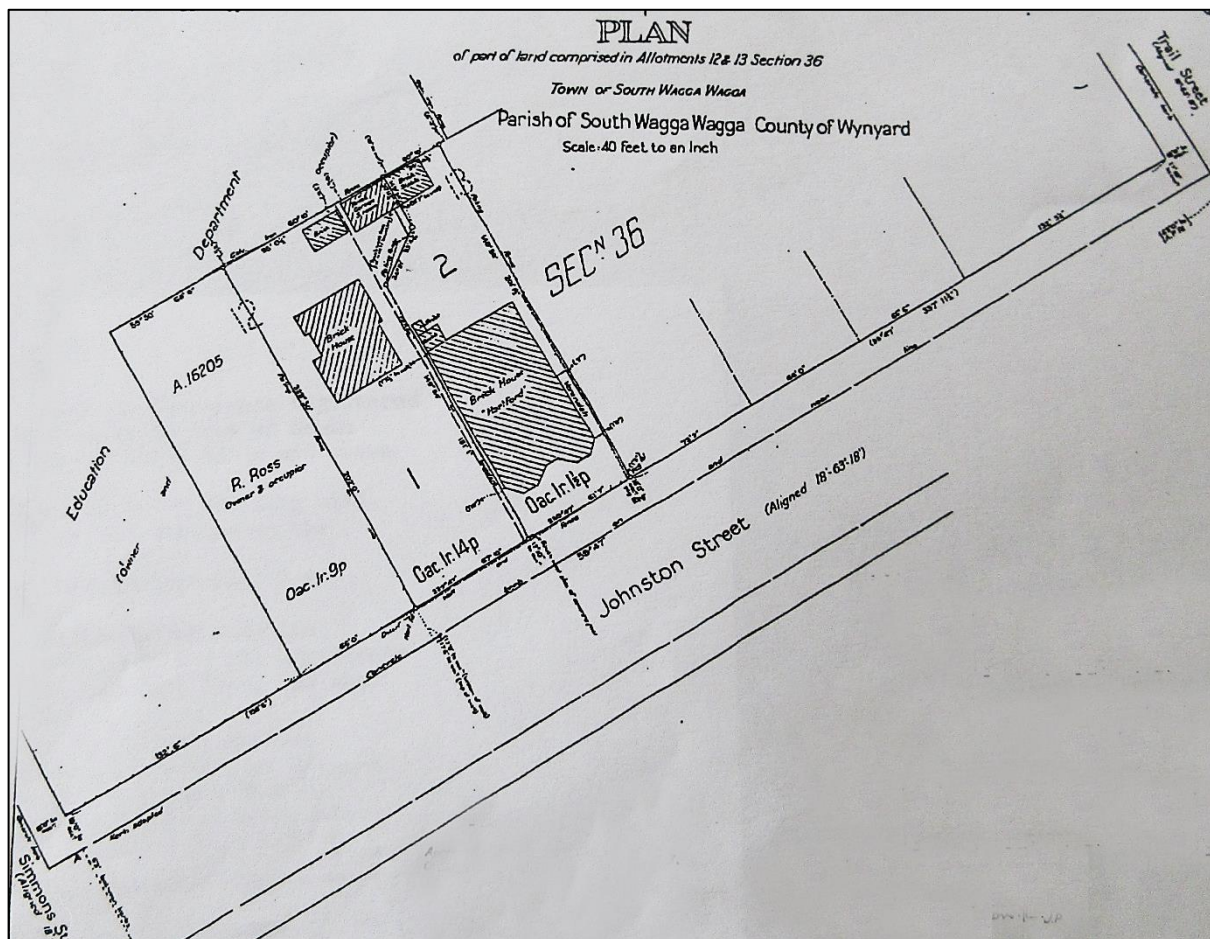
¹⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 1092, number 13.

Rosalie Hutchinson and Ada Hilliard were both daughters of William Seymour Eaton, and were also both executors of their mother's estate.

On the 6th September 1918 Mary Kerfoot purchased allotment 13, to the east of *Penandra*, from the estate of Elizabeth Harriett Eaton. Mary now owned four lots along Johnstone Street – no's 81-83, 85, 87 and 89.¹⁸

In September 1931 Mrs Mary Kerfoot, of *Penandra*, Johnstone Street, passed away. Her husband, Edward, survived her.¹⁹

In the period 1932-1934 the Wagga Wagga rate books initially listed the Kerfoot Estate, as the legal owners, but by the end of that period, Nellie Margaret Johnston had taken over. The premises were said to be occupied by Edward Kerfoot [merchant].²⁰



Above: 1933 plan by licensed surveyor Richard Buchhorn with *Penandra's* footprint on the left and *Hartford's* footprint on the right.

¹⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 1137, number 352.

¹⁹ Daily Advertiser. 28th September 1931, p3.

²⁰ Wagga Wagga Municipal Council. Valuation books. 1932-1934. CSU Regional Archives. [RW1429-123]

On the 17th May 1933 there was a sale by public auction of the property at 87 Johnston Street – a notice provided the following details,²¹

“No. 87 JOHNSTON-STREET, Magnificent Private Residence, elevated position, with beautiful grounds. Brick Home, comprises on ground floor 3 Bedrooms, large Dining Room, Lounge Room, Court, large Bathroom with Electric Heater and Sewered, large Kitchen with Electric and Fuel Stoves, large Sleep out, &c. Whilst upstairs is Billiard Room, 26 ft 19ft, with full size Billiard Table; Bedroom, Dressing Room, Lavatory, with every convenience; also outbuilding of brick, comprising Laundry, with Copper and Tubs, Bathroom with Porcelain Bath, Chip Heater and Sewered, Garage, Wood Shed and Lumber Room; Lawns front and back, also nice Garden. In every way a comfortable home, with every modern convenience. Built on one of Wagga's picked residential sites. -Land 66ft x 201ft.”

Penandra was purchased by Mrs Robert Joseph Johnson, from Edward Kerfoot [July 1933].²² Kerfoot also owned *Hartford*, and it was sold at the same time, to FJ Clancy.

The title deed, dated 29th September 1933, confirmed the conveyance from Edward Kerfoot, acting as executor in the estate of Mary Kerfoot, to Nellie Margaret Johnston, the wife of Robert Joseph Johnston, for the sum of £1,500.²³ The transfer included the *Penandra* lot plus a small piece of the back north west corner of allotment 13, which explains the irregular shape of the *Penandra* block in 2020. Presumably Kerfoot, who owned both lots, redrew the boundaries to accommodate existing buildings [garages]. The new lot now had an area of one rood and fourteen perches.

In December 1934 Mrs AG MacDonald, was teaching piano and music from her studio, *Penandra*, at 87 Johnston Street.²⁴ In 1932, Mrs AG MacDonald was teaching at Albury,²⁵ and in 1937 she was teaching at Dubbo.²⁶ It appears that she sold her Wagga Wagga practice in May 1935,²⁷ and her residency in Wagga Wagga occupied a relatively short span of several years.

²¹ Daily Advertiser. 13th May 1933, p3.

²² Wagga Wagga Express. 29th July 1933, p11.

²³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 1672, number 800.

²⁴ Daily Advertiser. 6th December 1934, p6.

²⁵ Daily Advertiser. 30th November 1932, p2.

²⁶ Daily Advertiser. 23rd October 1937, p4.

²⁷ Daily Advertiser. 24th May 1935, p4.

Other transactions to follow were,

1935-1937 – Owned by Nellie Margaret Johnston. Occupied by Edward David Arnold [insurance agent], Alexander Grant McDonald [salesman], and Frederick John Pitman [mechanic].²⁸

1938-1940 – Still owned by Nellie Margaret Johnston.²⁹
In the late 1930's the premises were often referred to as *Penandra Flats*.³⁰

1941, April – Mr GA Holmes, of 87 Johnston Street, held an auction sale for his furniture and effects.³¹ It was his intention to leave Wagga Wagga. It appears that *Penandra* was a boarding house throughout the 1940's.

1947-1949 – Owned by Nellie Margaret Johnston.³²
1950, 6th November – Conveyance from Nellie Margaret Johnston, to Harold Cecil Buckman, a master builder of Wagga Wagga, for the sum of £3,600.³³ The area of the block was unchanged at one rood and fourteen perches.

1951, June – The Wagga Baby Health Centre, formerly situated in Gurwood Street, had moved to 87 Johnston Street. The centre had been waiting over four years for council to provide new premises, and were now compelled to take these temporary premises.³⁴

1964, 4th February – Conveyance from Buckman, to Edward Alexander Pumpa, a barman of Wagga Wagga, and his wife, Ivy Rita Pumpa,³⁵ for the sum of £7,400.³⁶ Ivy died on the 14th February 1976.

1988, 10th October – Transfer of title from Edward Alexander Pumpa, a barman of Wagga Wagga, to John Henry Cummins, a dental surgeon, of 94 Stanley Street, Wagga Wagga, and his wife, Helen Therese Cummins., for the sum of \$175,000.³⁷

²⁸ Wagga Wagga Municipal Council. Valuation books. 1932-1934. CSU Regional Archives. [RW1429-124].

²⁹ Wagga Wagga Municipal Council. Valuation books. 1932-1934. CSU Regional Archives. [RW1429-125 & 126]

³⁰ Daily Advertiser. 9th March 1939, p4.

³¹ Daily Advertiser. 18th April 1941, p5.

³² Wagga Wagga Municipal Council. Valuation books. 1932-1934. CSU Regional Archives. [RW1429-127]

³³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 2148, number 61.

³⁴ Daily Advertiser. 21st June 1951, p2.

³⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 3757, number 432.

³⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 2687, number 194.

³⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 3757, number 432.

Contemporary Sales History³⁸

1999, June – Sold for \$358,000 [John and Helen Cummins to John and Sue Sweeney]

2005, August – Sold for \$692,500 [John & Sue Sweeney to David and Carol Loneragan]

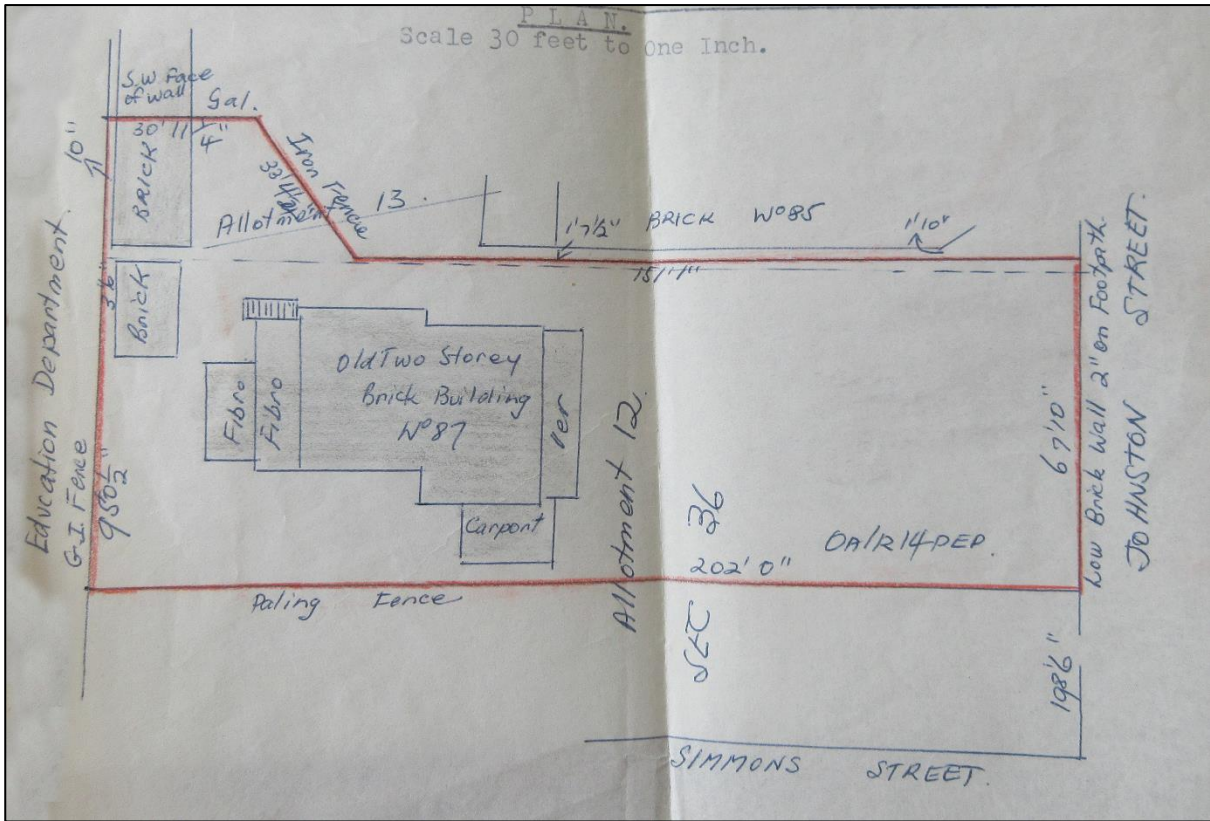
Current title

DP.1.152758 > CA36595 > Book 3757-432



Above: Aerial view of section 36 in February 2019. The boundaries of 87 Johnstone Street are highlighted in yellow, showing the funny little triangular protrusion into allotment 13, at the rear of 85 Johnston Street. Courtesy Google Earth.

³⁸ Domain.com. 87 Johnston Street.



Above: 1963 hand drawn plan by licensed surveyor Richard Buchhorn with Penandra foot print.



Above: An aerial view of Johnston Street in 1944.

Some of the Owners [87 Johnstone Street]

John Beecher Bent

John Beecher Bent was born at Liverpool, NSW, in 1821, the son of John Bent and Frances Bent [nee Wrixon].³⁹

John Beecher as well connected, in Wagga Wagga. His sister, Mary, had married James Bourke, in May 1827,⁴⁰ and following the death of James, in 1835, Mary married the infamous John Peter, in February 1837.⁴¹

John in fact, was working for Peter, as a superintendent, in 1848.⁴²

John's wife, Mary Ann, was the brother of Robert John [Bobbie] Higgins, a well-known pastoralist and one time owner of the Australian hotel. Mary's sister, Rebecca Higgins, was married to Frank Jenkins, another well-known pioneer of the district.

In the 1840's and/or 1850's John managed North Yanco Station, for his brother in law, John Peter. He was definitely there from April 1854,⁴³ till August 1858.⁴⁴ The property was later sold to the McNeil brothers, Adam and Alec.⁴⁵ It is assumed that John subsequently purchased land in Wagga Wagga, as an investment.

Another property out west, Colinroobie, was originally known as Bent's Hill. The The Aboriginal term for the location was Colinbroobie [colin meaning water, and broobie meaning jumping up, as in a spring].⁴⁶

In February 1866, Bent offered up for sale, by public auction, a number of blocks of land along Freer Street, all running back to the lagoon. The blocks were allotments 1 to 5 of section 29, having a total area of three acres, one rood, and twenty one perches. The lots were, "*fenced and paled,*" and featured a substantial stockyard and slaughterhouse. Access to the lagoon [water] made it a promising site for a market garden, or other agricultural purpose, or even a steam mill.⁴⁷

Around July 1866, John Beecher Bent selected fifty acres of land at Rowan.⁴⁸

³⁹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # V1821161 127.

⁴⁰ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 222/1827 V1827222 127.

⁴¹ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 1764/1837 V18371764 21.

⁴² Goulburn Herald. 9th September 1848, p2.

⁴³ Goulburn Herald. 13th May 1854, p1.

⁴⁴ Goulburn Herald. 17th November 1858, p1.

⁴⁵ Murrumbidgee Irrigator. 9th December 1930, p1.

⁴⁶ Narandera Argus. 9th November 1948, p4.

⁴⁷ Wagga Wagga Express. 17th February 1866, p3.

⁴⁸ Wagga Wagga Express. 7th July 1866, p2.

John Beecher Bent died on the 19th February 1880, at Broadmeadows, Victoria,⁴⁹ at the home of his sister, Mary Peters [nee Bent].⁵⁰ It was stated that he had lived at Gumly Gumly for many years [this would have referred to John Peter's Run]. He was said to be a big man, some six feet six inches tall, and of stout build.⁵¹

Henry Baylis

Henry Baylis was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on the 17th April 1826, the son of Thomas Henry Baylis and Julia Dorothy Baylis [nee Bartels]. His father was a Lieutenant with the 17th regiment, who had served in several locations outside of his native country. On the 27th June 1832, the family, including Henry, arrived in Australia, on board the vessel, *City of Edinburgh*.⁵² Henry received an excellent education – first at King's School, Parramatta, followed by four years in the legal office of the Fitzhardinge family, in Sydney. He subsequently spent some time, with his father, on a pastoral property at Mudgee, before joining a group of overlanders taking a mob of horses through to Adelaide, in 1849. It was on this trip that he passed through Wagga Wagga, for the first time.

In 1852 he took a position as the clerk of petty sessions, at Hartley, which was the beginning of a long career in law enforcement.⁵³

On the 29th January 1857 he married Sybella Murray, at Mount Lambie.⁵⁴

On the 1st January 1858 he became the first police magistrate appointed to the town and district of Wagga Wagga. He spent the next thirty eight years serving Wagga Wagga, before retiring, in 1896, at the age of seventy.

He was well known for his confrontation with Dan Morgan, on which occasion he was shot.

His family home, *Goonigal*, was one of Wagga Wagga's premier homes, which was eventually incorporated into the modern day RSL Club.

He was prominent in many of the town's community groups, and did many good things for the town and its citizens. He was though arrogant, to a degree, and some of his actions did not reflect well on his character.

Henry moved to Sydney after retiring and died at Homebush, in July 1905,⁵⁵ when he was hit by moving train, while he was crossing the railway line.

His eldest son, James John Baylis, was a qualified surveyor, but spent much of his working life as a pastoralist at Narrandera, and Wagga Wagga. In later life he served as a licensing magistrate at Narrandera, and he was prominent in a number of community activities. James is remembered for his efforts in recording the local indigenous languages, and his recollections of the early days.

⁴⁹ VIC BDM's. Death registration # 405.

⁵⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 21st February 1880, p2.

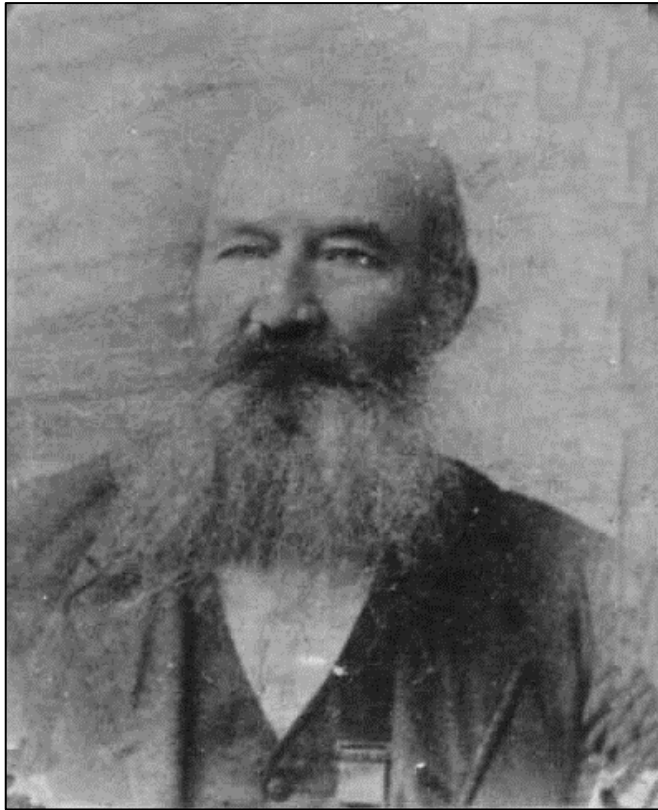
⁵¹ Narandera Argus. 9th November 1948, p4.

⁵² Sydney Gazette. 28th June 1832, p3.

⁵³ Sherry Morris. Biographical Listings. Henry Baylis.

⁵⁴ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 1304.

⁵⁵ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 7929.



Left and Below: Henry Baylis, complete with medal.

Henry & Sybella had a total of nine children, all sons except one – Wilhelmina Helen. Wilhelmina married Broughton Clayton Garland, at Wagga Wagga, on the 29th January 1880.⁵⁶



⁵⁶ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 5125

George Smith of Kyeamba

George Smith was born on the 7th September 1837, at Arthursleigh, NSW,⁵⁷ the son of John Smith [of Kyeamba], and Anne Smith [nee Wilde]. In 1858 he married Jane Strachan, at Wagga Wagga.⁵⁸

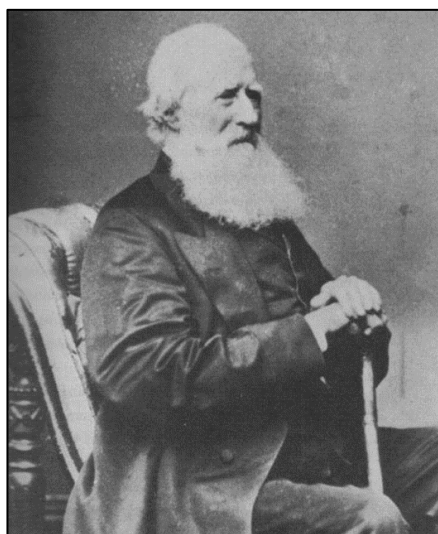
In 1868, George held the license for the Traveller's Rest hotel at Kyeamba,⁵⁹ for one year only. The hotel would have been owned by his father, John [Darbarlara] Smith.

George was also managing the Kyeamba run, in the 1870's⁶⁰ – presumably on behalf of his father. Another reference suggests George was also settled on his own run, Kyemaba Springs.⁶¹ Smith traded extensively in stock [sheep] during this period, often paying top price for same.⁶²

There were a number of George Smiths living in and around Wagga Wagga at this time, and it is difficult to know, from a variety of reports, which of these relate to our George Smith.

But certainly by the late 1870's our George Smith was in in serious financial difficulties, which ultimately ended with him being declared insolvent, and his assets sold off.

His father, John Smith, passed away in August 1879,⁶³ and presumably George received some benefit from that estate. Very little else is known of George, other than that he passed away at Ashfield {Sydney}, in June 1922.⁶⁴



Above: John [Darbarlara] Smith and Anne Smith [nee Wilde], the parents of George Smith.

⁵⁷ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 1085/1837 V18371085 21.

⁵⁸ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 2757.

⁵⁹ NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1868, p2884.

⁶⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 24th April 1872, p2.

⁶¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 20th January 1872, p2.

⁶² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 15th February 1873, p2.

⁶³ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 9271.

⁶⁴ Sydney Morning Herald. 4th July 1922.

Lawrence Solomon Joseph

Lawrence Solomon Joseph - nothing is known of his early life. It is known that he married Amy (Aimee) Rebecca Marks at Sydney on the 15th October 1879,⁶⁵ and that the couple had at least three children, Olga Isabelle (b.1880),⁶⁶ Maria F (b.1884),⁶⁷ and Marjorie (b.1887).⁶⁸

When Lawrence testified at the inquest into the 1897 fire that destroyed his business, he declared that he came to Wagga Wagga around 1876 and that he had conducted a jeweller's business in the town, continuously, since that date. Lawrence lost a lot of stock in the fire, but the most precious jewellery and his books were stored in a safe and escaped the inferno.⁶⁹

Lawrence traded in a wide range of goods, as can be seen in his 1897 advertisement [subsequent page]. As well, in 1896, Lawrence was granted a license to sell explosives.⁷⁰

It can be seen in the old photo [next page] that his premises also housed a wholesale wine and spirits merchant's business.⁷¹

Lawrence, was a watchmaker and jeweller, by trade, and he purchased the Wagga Wagga business from S Raphael, on the 1st May 1876.⁷²

He took pride in promoting local organisations and was known for the various items he displayed in his shop windows. In September 1876 he displayed a valuable trophy, donated by John Cox, of Mangoplah, to be played for by the various cricket clubs of Wagga Wagga and surrounding districts.⁷³

In September 1879, the Wagga Gold Cup was donated by Mr CM LLOYD of Yamma. It was described as, "*similar to last year's Cup, being of the claret jug form, in gold and crystal. The top is surmounted by the figure of a horse and jockey, and as either side there is a band, in gold and crimson enamel.*" The Cup was made by the well-known house of Elkington and Co., and was enclosed in a handsome morocco case. The cup was on display in Joseph's shop for several days.

⁶⁵ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 1127.

⁶⁶ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 25979.

⁶⁷ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 26355.

⁶⁸ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 28501.

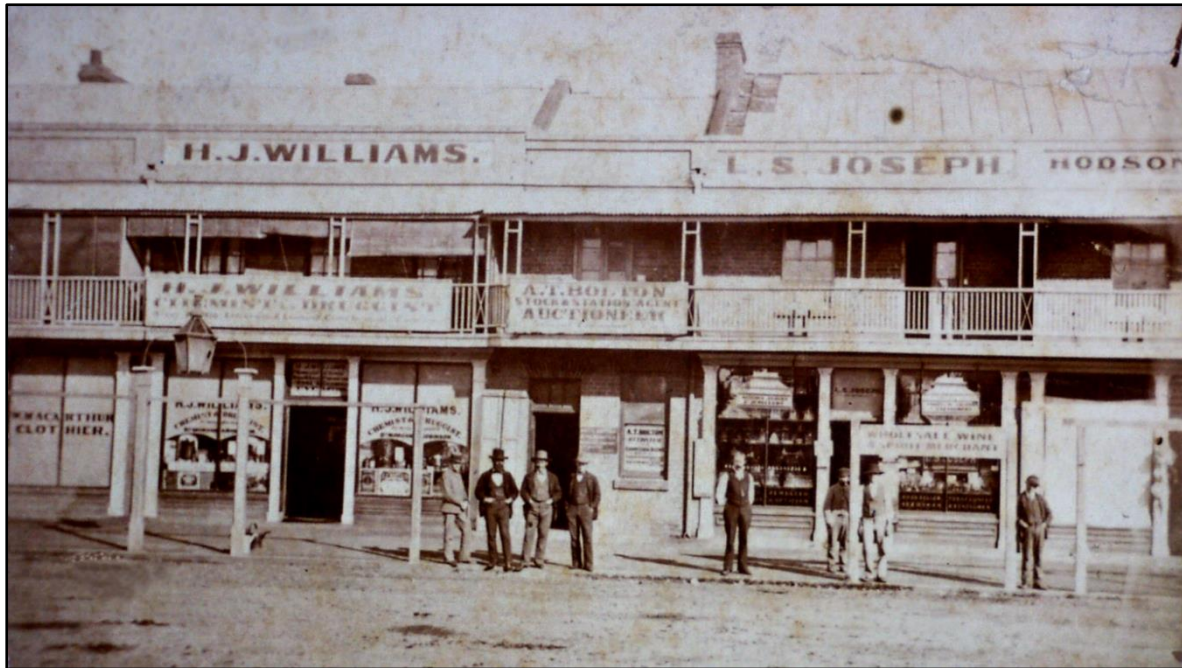
⁶⁹ Wagga Wagga Express. 1st July 1897, p2.

⁷⁰ NSW Government Gazette. 1896, p6824.

⁷¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 29th June 1897, p2.

⁷² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 17th May 1876, p3.

⁷³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 27th September 1876, p2.



Above: A row of shops facing Fitzmaurice Street, c.1880's, including the shop of Lawrence Solomon Joseph. To the right was the Pastoral hotel (the ABC Studios in 2019) and to the left was Gurwood Street. Courtesy Frank Pagram.

Lawrence involved himself with a number of community groups and projects. In November 1876, for example, Joseph was one of a number of local citizens elected to a committee to prepare for a visit by the governor.⁷⁴ In November 1879 he was elected to the committee of the Wagga Cricket Club,⁷⁵ and from February 1877, he was a member of the MTC.⁷⁶

Lawrence passed away in 1923, at Chatswood.⁷⁷ He was the son of Solomon and Judith Joseph.

⁷⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 15th November 1876, p2.

⁷⁵ Wagga Wagga Express. 15th November 1879, p4.

⁷⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 7th February 1877, p2.

⁷⁷ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 6723.

William Seymour Eaton

William Seymour Eaton was born in Hartford, Connecticut, USA, in 1831, the son of William D Eaton. The latter was at one time, the proprietor of an extensive biscuit manufacturing business. William [junior] was the cousin of WW Eaton, a former senator and nephew of Henry W Eaton, the chief of the fire department of Hartford. It is claimed that William [junior] was a mining engineer and that he came to Australia to try his luck on the goldfields. He then went to Grenfell, and, later still, studied the science of brewing at Melbourne.

In 1857 William married Elizabeth Harriet Fillmore, in Victoria⁸⁰ – presumably on the gold fields. Their first child, Alice, was born in Victoria, in 1860,⁸¹ but the next three children, were all born in the district of Forbes, NSW, in the period 1863 to 1868. The fifth child, Ada, was born at Grenfell,⁸² and then finally the remaining five children were all born at Wagga Wagga, in the period 1874 till 1886.

William moved to Wagga Wagga around 1871 and took an interest in a cordial manufactory business with George Wildman.⁸³ Certainly by March 1871, William had taken over the aerated soda water, lemonade and cordial manufactory business of SA Phillips,⁸⁴ which was located in Fitzmaurice Street.⁸⁵

By June 1873 William was conducting a cordial plant, in Trail Street, in partnership with Samuel Salter Lincoln.⁸⁶ According to Morris, the plant was originally located in Kincaid Street and then moved to the corner of Crampton and Trail Streets.

William was licensee of the International Hotel from 1878 to 1880,⁸⁷ and in December 1879 he purchased the Johnston Street Brewery from George Wildman, with whom he had already established a business relationship with.⁸⁸ George Wildman passed away on the 17th December 1879, having been ill for a number of years.⁸⁹

In February 1889, William's son, William Henry Fillmore Eaton, in partnership with A.R. Tewkesbury, were in control of the brewery,⁹⁰ with Eaton supervising the brewing and Tewkesbury the outside and financial side of the business. The brewery company established a branch at Temora and the business [sales]

⁸⁰ VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 4321.

⁸¹ VIC BDM's. Birth registration # 17029.

⁸² NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 7534,

⁸³ Sherry Morris. Biographical Listings. William Seymour Eaton.

⁸⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 29th March 1871, p1.

⁸⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 17th May 1871, p1.

⁸⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 4th June 1873, p2.

⁸⁷ NSW Government Gazettes. Publicans' Licenses. [1878, p194], [1878, p3443], [1879, p4072].

⁸⁸ Wagga Wagga Express. 16th August 1879, p5. / 10th December 1879, p1.

⁸⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 20th December 1879, p2. / Wagga Wagga Express. 20th December 1879, p4.

⁹⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 16th February 1889, p3.

extended to Yass, Junee and Coolamon districts. The company's strong bottled ale won a gold medal at the International Exhibition held in Melbourne in 1888, while the firms' exhibits of aerated waters, bottled stout and ale obtained many prizes at the Wagga Wagga Show. In 1894 the licence of the Wagga Wagga Brewery was transferred from W.H.F. Eaton and A.R. Tewkesbury back to William Seymour Eaton, and then, Tewkesbury, along with J. Bellair, took over the Temora branch. In 1901 the brewers' licence was once again transferred from William Seymour Eaton to his son, W.H.F. Eaton, and W.H.F. was listed as the manager of Eaton and Co (W.S. as the proprietor) in the N.S.W. Directory of 1903; by 1904 the business was conducted by William Seymour Eaton's son-in-law, H.S. Headley.⁹¹

In July 1877 William sold the Cootamundra Cordial Works, to Thomas John Webster, the son of Charles Bryant Webster. The latter was the step father of William's wife, Elizabeth Harriet Eaton [nee Fillmore].⁹²

William Seymour Eaton passed away on the 17th October 1910, at his home in Mosman [Sydney] at the age of eighty five.⁹³



Above: An early photo of WS Eaton's Johnstone Street Brewery.

⁹¹ Sherry Morris. Biographical Listings. William Seymour Eaton.

⁹² Sherry Morris. Biographical Listings. William Seymour Eaton.

⁹³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 18th October 1910, p2.

Mary Lupton

Mary Lupton was the daughter of James Skirrow Lupton and Margaret Elizabeth Lupton [nee Edmondson]. Her father had been an owner, and manager, of T Edmondson & Co., and the business had always been in the Edmondson family, since its establishment.

It is believed Mary was born in England, in 1874, but no record could be found of the event. She came to Australia with her parents in 1880, and on the 29th January 1902, she married Edward Broadrick Kerfoot, a native of England, at Wagga Wagga [St Andrew's Church].⁹⁴

The couple had two children – Geoffrey [a dentist], and Eleanor [who married Stewart Read].

Mary's mother, Margaret, died in September 1881, and in 1884 or 1885, Mary and her father returned to the old country, where her father remarried.

Mary's father also travelled to England in 1901,⁹⁵ and it is assumed that this had some connection with the arrival of Edward Kerfoot, in Australia, in that same year.

It is believed that Edward came to Australia, via Fremantle and Melbourne, arriving in Sydney towards the end of 1901,⁹⁶ on board the vessel, *Oroya*.

Edward presumably went to work for his father in law, immediately, but the earliest reference found was in January 1906, when he was described as a manager for T Edmonson & Co.⁹⁷ When he retired at the end of May 1945, it was recorded that he had been with the firm for forty three years, which would mean he started in 1902.⁹⁸

Edward Kerfoot passed away on the 8th March 1949, at his home, 98 Best Street, at the age of seventy four. An obituary provided the following details,⁹⁹

“Mr. Kerfoot came to Wagga nearly 50 years ago from Manchester (England). He became the managing director of T. Edmondson and Coy., soon afterwards, and remained in that position until he retired in 1945. At the time of his death he was managing director of the Murrumbidgee Co-operative Dairy Company, a position he filled after the death a few years ago of the late J. J. Scott. Mr. Kerfoot was president of the Wagga Presbyterian Boys' Hostel, and patron of the Wagga Boys' Band. He was also president of the Wagga Chamber of Commerce at the time of its inception. Mr. Kerfoot was also keenly interested in Wagga's cultural activities, and was a strong supporter of the Wagga Eisteddfod Society and the Wagga

⁹⁴ Wagga Wagga Express. 1st February 1902, p2.

⁹⁵ NSW, Departing Crew & Passenger Lists: 1898-1911 [ancestry.com].

⁹⁶ Victoria, Assisted & Unassisted Passenger Lists: 1839-1923 [ancestry.com]

⁹⁷ Wagga Wagga Express. 23rd January 1906, p4.

⁹⁸ Daily Advertiser. 2nd June 1945, p4.

⁹⁹ Daily Advertiser. 9th March 1949, p2.

Musical Society. He was a vice-president of the Wagga Eisteddfod Council for some years. When the musical comedy, "Going Up," was produced in Wagga many years ago to raise funds to provide an ambulance for the district, Mr. Kerfoot was a member of the cast. He also appeared in many short plays on the Wagga Eisteddfod programmes. Another interest that Mr. Kerfoot had was the School of Arts. He was one of its former trustees. Last year, when a hitch occurred on whether the Education Department would take over the responsibility of conducting the free kindergarten in Trail Street, he paid the salaries of two teachers for a month. This was stated last night by a member of the Wagga Free Kindergarten organisation. The committee member said it was largely due to Mr. Kerfoot's efforts that the building and ground in Trail Street was made available for the establishment of a kindergarten in the first place. He is survived by one son. Dr. Geoff Kerfoot (Wagga), one daughter, Mrs. Stewart Read, | Glenrowan (Vic.), and a brother and sister in England. His wife predeceased him about 18 years ago."

Mary Kerfoot passed away on the 25th September 1931, at Wagga Wagga.¹⁰⁰

In 1914 Mary owned four lots along Johnstone Street – no's 81-83, 85, 87 and 89.¹⁰¹ The family lived at # 89 for a time, but it is clear the purchases were an investment, in real estate, that provided a regular stream of income.

Robert Joseph Johnston

Robert Joseph Johnston was best known for his connection over many years, with the Daily Advertiser. It is not known exactly when he came to Wagga Wagga but by October 1897, he was working as a printer at the Wagga Wagga Advertiser, and he owned property at Wagga Wagga.¹⁰²

In 1918, he married Nellie Margaret Tilden [nee McDonald], at Sydney.¹⁰³

Robert passed away on the 11th April 1952, and an obituary provided the following details,¹⁰⁴

"The death occurred on Friday evening at his home in Belmore, Sydney, of Mr. Robert Joseph Johnston. A former manager of the Wagga Wagga Advertiser, the late Mr. Johnston lived in Wagga practically all his life, and moved to Sydney only last year. He retired in 1946, after having graduated through every department of newspaper production in his 40 years' association with this paper. Beginning his career as a boy in the printing department of the 'Advertiser,' he served in various

¹⁰⁰ Wagga Wagga Express. 26th September 1931, p2.

¹⁰¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 1137, number 352.

¹⁰² Wagga Wagga Express. 14th October 1897, p3.

¹⁰³ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 10424.

¹⁰⁴ Daily Advertiser. 15th April 1952, p2.

capacities as a printer, foreman, linotype operator, accountant, reporter, chief-of-staff, business organiser, assistant editor, and manager.”

Australian Electoral Rolls – the following records were detected,

1913 – Robert Joseph Johnston, a compositor, was living in Baylis Street, on his own.

From 1930 to 1936 Robert Joseph Johnston, a reporter, was living at 78 Johnston Street, with his wife, Nellie Margaret Johnston.

1949 - Robert Joseph Johnston, a reporter, was still living at 78 Johnston Street, with his wife, Nellie Margaret Johnston.



Above: 78 Johnstone Street in February 2020.

Nellie Johnston remained in Sydney, following her husband’s death, and she passed away there on the 9th January 1975.¹⁰⁵ She had been living at Strathfield prior to her death.

¹⁰⁵ Sydney Morning Herald. 15th January 1975. [Ryerson Index].



Above: A 1971 aerial view of Johnston Street, showing the various property boundaries. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council. Intramaps.